

California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Colorado River Basin



February 2018 – March 2018  
Staff Report

## Contents

ORDERS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD .....	3
POLICY MEETINGS.....	3
NEW RIVER POLLUTION .....	4
<b>TMDL/BASIN PLANNING UNIT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NPDES UNIT ACTIVITIES UPDATES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REGULATORY AND LAND DISPOSAL UNIT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
SALTON SEA AND SWAMP PROGRAMS .....	9
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) & SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS.....	10
ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES .....	13

## Regional Water Board (RWB) Staff Report

### ORDERS ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

**February to March 2018**—The Regional Water Board Executive Officer issued a Water Quality Certifications Order to each of the following Discharger to address the Discharger's project potential water quality impacts:

- **Riverside County Transportation Department**—The Discharger is proposing to widen an approximately 0.75- to 1-mile section of the existing 22-foot roadway along Thousand Palms Canyon Road to a 32-foot roadway with two 12-foot travel lanes and 4-foot shoulders on each side of the roadway, in unincorporated Riverside County. Road widening and pavement resurfacing would include grinding of existing pavement, overlaying with new asphalt, minor modification to the vertical alignment, construction of Safety Edge pavement end condition, widening and grading of existing dirt shoulders, and signing/stripping modification. The Project falls under a non-notifying U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Nationwide Permit 14, as the impacts are less than 0.1 acres. The Order was issued on February 2, 2018.
- **California Department of Transportation**—The Discharger proposes to install culverts and reconstruct washed out embankment on State Route 78 (SR-78) between Post Mile (PM) 75.05 and 75.17 in Imperial County. This emergency project was initiated to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life or property. All work will occur within Caltrans right-of way. No staging areas have been identified. Work includes placing two (2) additional 36 inch diameter Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) culverts at PM 75.17 and one (1) additional 36 inch diameter RCP culvert at PM 75.05, with RSP deceleration pads at the outlet, extending existing culverts at each location by 10 feet, repairing damaged slopes and placing RSP between PM 75.05 and 75.17 along the east slope of Route 78. The Order was issued on February 16, 2018.
- **Kinder Morgan Pipeline**—The Discharger owns and operates an oil pipeline. About 15 feet of the pipeline have been exposed due to heavy wash flows, near the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County. Crew will hand dig the circumference of the pipe and an additional 3 feet beyond each exposure to inspect the coating, applying duct tape at exposure termination ends. The pipeline will be inspected for damages and repair. The Order was issued on March 19, 2018. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, PhD, P.E.*]

**Cannabis Operations in Region 7**—Since February 2018 to March 2018, the Executive Officer issued 9 Notices of Applicability of coverage under the State Water Resources Control General Order for cannabis cultivation to cannabis indoor cultivation operations in Region 7. All of the operations are in the Coachella Valley. Staff expects another 10-20 more operations in the Region that will be applying for coverage this year. [*Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE, P.E.*]

### Policy Meetings

**Salton Sea Management Program and Restoration**—On March 28, 2018, the Executive Officer met with Bruce Wilcox (CNRA Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea) and Phil Rosentrater (SSA Executive Director) to discuss the Board's upcoming Salton Sea Workshop and water quality policy for the SSMP and related restoration efforts. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**USEPA Meeting**—On February 13, 2018, Mr. Tomas Torres, Water Director for USEPA Region IX, and several of his staff members visited the Regional Board Office and met with the Board's

Executive Officer, Surface Waters Division Chief, and Salton Sea Coordinator to discuss surface water program priorities, including TMDLs, Salton Sea, and New River pollution from Mexico. Following the meeting, the Regional Water Board staff provided USEPA staff with a field tour of the Eastern Coachella Valley and northern portion of the Salton Sea.

**Management Coordinating Committee (MCC) Meetings**—The Executive Officer participated in the March 26 and 27, 2018, MCC meeting, which was held in Sacramento. Key issues discussed during the meeting included status of vacancies, the Water Boards Cannabis Program, litigation, and emergency response to disasters. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**One World Beef**—The Executive Officer met with City of Brawley and One World Beef representatives, on February 12, 2018, to discuss the status of OWB's Pretreatment Permit. He also met with OWB representatives on several different occasions. In February and March 2018, he also met with OWB representatives at OWB's Brawley Plant to discuss OWB's proposed ongoing use of its existing industrial wastewater pretreatment plant, in lieu of its proposed BioFiltro, to reuse the effluent from the plant on a 140 acres to be planted with Bermuda Grass. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**Proposed Border Fence Replacement Project**—The Executive Officer met on several different occasions, in February 2018, with representatives of the State Justice Department in San Diego to discuss potential water quality impacts from a project proposed by U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The project consists of replacing about 2-3 miles of Border fence, just west of the New River in Calexico, building a 2-mile all weather road along the fence, and installing a concrete precast bridge for the New River near the Border in Calexico. He also visited the project area on several occasions in February. Ms. Katharine Budding (Board Counsel) and Mr. Angel also participated in several teleconferences with representatives of the Justice Department to discuss the project and related water quality concerns in February and early March 2018. On February 21, 2018, the Executive Officer provided U.S. DHS with comments and recommendations in writing to protect water quality.

**Monthly Teleconference with State Water Board Executive Director**—The Executive Officer and the State Water Board Executive Director held teleconferences in February and March 2018 to discuss Regional and Statewide priorities, including Salton Sea restoration and management efforts and New River pollution.

## NEW RIVER POLLUTION

**New River Improvement Project, Calexico Phase 1**—In late February 2018, State Water Board awarded Michael Baker International (MBI) the \$1.4M engineering services contract to prepare the environmental documentation for and to design the proposed trash screen, conveyance system, and pump-back system for the New River in the Calexico area. Plans, specifications, and the environmental documentation for the Calexico Phase I are expected to be delivered by October 2018. Regional Water Board staff is also working with CalEPA staff to identify and secure funding for phase II of the project, which consists of the construction of the proposed infrastructure. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

On March 14, 2018, MBI and the Executive Officer met with representatives of the El Centro Sector Border Patrol to discuss consultation and coordination with U.S. Department of Homeland Security regarding the Calexico Phase 1 Project. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

On March 27, 2018, MBI and the Executive Officer met with Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial County, and City of Calexico representatives in Calexico to discuss roles and expectations regarding the Calexico Phase 1 project. [*Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.*]

**New River Pollution from Mexico**—On February 22, 2018, the Executive Officer attended the meeting of the Binational Technical Committee for the New River/Mexicali Sanitation Program and Binational Observation Tour of New River in Mexicali. Topics discussed during the meeting focused on the status of the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali. [Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.]

On March 13, 2018, The Executive Officer met with Border Patrol Union representatives to discuss New River pollution from Mexico. [Jose L. Angel, EO, P.E.]

## TMDL/BASIN PLANNING UNIT

(Unit Chief, Nadim Shukry-Zeywar, Senior Environmental Scientist)

**Salton Sea Basin Plan Amendment (BPA)**—Water Board staff prepared draft documents for the amendment, including Draft Staff Report, Amendment and Resolution. The documents are currently under legal review. The administrative amendment will update the Salton Sea language in the Basin Plan, as well as address other errors and typos throughout the Basin Plan. Staff plans to present the draft BPA to the Regional Board for consideration of adoption in June 2018. [Maria Davydova, ES]

**Palo Verde Agricultural General Order**—Water Board staff are continuing with the development of a General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements to replace the Conditional Waiver for the Palo Verde area. The Waiver for the Palo Verde area expired in September 2017. A draft of the proposed General Order and supporting CEQA documents are currently being reviewed by the Board's executive management. The draft General Order is expected to be before the Regional Board for consideration of adoption in June 2018. [Francisco Costa, ES, PhD.]

**Bard Agricultural General Order**—Water Board staff are continuing with the development of a General Order of Waste Discharge Requirements to replace the Conditional Waiver for the Bard Unit of Reservation Division. The Waiver for the Bard Unit expired in January 2018. Staff are continuing with the process of drafting the General Order and plan to bring it before the Regional Board for consideration of adoption in September 2018. [Logan Raub, ES]

**Integrated Report**—Water Board staff are continuing with updating the Integrated Report for our Region. The Integrated Report provides an overall water quality condition assessment of surface waters of the state and a list of water bodies not meeting water quality standards. Staff plan to bring the 2018 Integrated Report before the Regional Board for consideration of adoption in September 2019. [Rosalyn Fleming, WRCE]

**Agricultural Waivers Implementation**—On February 28, 2018, Water Board staff received annual monitoring reports from the Palo Verde Outfall Coalition, the Bard Unit Coalition, and the Coachella Valley Coalition groups for 2017. Staff are reviewing the reports.

On March 9, our Executive Officer approved a Quality Assurance Project Plan for a two-year selenium study in Imperial Valley Drains being conducted by the Imperial Irrigation District. Several Imperial Valley waterbodies are currently listed on the State's Impaired Waters List as impaired by selenium. This study will enhance the understanding of selenium, and may ultimately result in recommendations of farm and drain practices for the management of selenium in Imperial Valley waterbodies. Field work begins in May-June 2018. Final Reports are expected to be submitted in late 2020.

On March 14, Regional Board staff met with representatives from the Imperial Irrigation District-Imperial County Farm Bureau Coalition group at our office in Palm Desert. These quarterly Technical Management Committee meetings provide an opportunity to discuss implementation of

the Imperial Valley Conditional Waiver. [*Francisco Costa, ES, PhD., Jennie Snyder, WRCE, Logan Raub, ES*]

**Monitoring New River at the International Boundary**—Water Board staff collected water samples from the New River at the International Boundary for February and March 2018. These are monthly sampling events. Sampling equipment, bottles, chain of custody forms, and Water Quality Reports are prepared by Logan Raub. The Water Quality Reports are posted on our web page at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water\\_issues/programs/new\\_river/dataindex.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/new_river/dataindex.html)

[*Logan Raub, ES*]

**Environmental Justice**—February 21, 2018 – Coachella Valley EJ Enforcement Task Force and Air Quality Workshop, Indio, CA

Staff assisted South Coast AQMD in preparations for the February 21 Task Force meeting, which was combined with a one hour community workshop on air quality facilitated by AQMD. During the workshop, South Coast AQMD presented recognition awards to Ms. Maria Davydova and to Mr. Humberto Lugo (Comite Civico del Valle) in appreciation for their commitment to the community. The workshop presentation can be found [here](#).

March 28, 2018 – Coachella Valley Environmental Justice Enforcement Task Force, Indio, CA. Staff attended the meeting to represent the Regional Water Board. At the meeting, staff provided information about the OWTs Policy, and announced the April 12 Salton Sea workshop. Comite Civico del Valle staff gave a presentation about their Salton Sea Community Outreach, Education & Engagement Program activities; more information about the program can be found [here](#).  
[*Maria Davydova, ES*]

March 23, 2018 – SWRCB EJ Roundtable, participated by phone  
Francisco Costa, Unit staff, attended the meeting to represent our Region and to be informed about other SWRCB and Regional EJ program activities.

## NPDES UNIT ACTIVITIES UPDATES

(Unit Chief, Kai Dunn, Senior WRC Engineer)

**Pretreatment Compliance Inspection**—The practice of removing pollutants from industrial and commercial wastewater before they are discharged into municipal sewage treatment system is known as “pretreatment.” On February 5, Program Needs Assessment was conducted by a USEPA contactor and Regional Board staff for the City of Banning Wastewater treatment Plant which does not have a formally approved program. Inspection team reviewed city’s Sewer Use Ordinance section, which addresses waste discharges by non-residential users, Local Limits Evaluation Report, and Enforcement Response Plan. The inspection team also reviewed implementation plans for the reduction of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) associated with restaurants that discharge to the wastewater treatment plant. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.*]

**NPDES Evaluation Criteria Meeting**—USEPA is in the process of drafting a criteria to evaluate state’s NPDES Permitting program. On February 20, 2018, Regional Board staff joined a conference call to discuss the proposed criteria to evaluate state’s NPDES program. The discussion focused on developing evaluating criteria for these areas: quality of NPDES permits; program administration; permit issuance; and innovation. State Board and Regional Board staff provided comments on the proposed criteria, and USEPA will revise the criteria it accordingly. [*Jeong-Hee Lim, WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.*]



**Coachella Valley Conservation Commission In-Lieu Fee Program and Construct Riparian Habitat Site Visit**—The Coachella Valley In-Lieu Fee Program (ILFP) will be used for Compensatory Mitigation for unavoidable impacts to Waters of the U.S. that result from activities authorized under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and section 401 of the CWA water quality certification. The Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) is currently planning to construct riparian habitat located at west of the Coachella Valley Water District's (CVWD) Johnson Street Drain and about 10,000 feet south of where Johnson Street intersects with State Highway 111. The proposed project will be part of ILFP managed by CVCC. On March 1, 2018, CVCC invited Regional Board staff, Army Corps of Engineering, Department of Fish and Wildlife, CVWD staff and consultants to attend a discussion meeting for the project and a site visit. [*Kai Dunn, Senior WRCE, Ph.D., P.E.*]

**Industrial Storm Water Discussion**—A monthly storm water discussion, related to the industrial program, was hosted by the Los Angeles Regional Board staff on March 19, 2018. During the meeting, the following topics were discussed: practical issues that are being dealt statewide in relation to the Program, No Exposure Certifications (NECs), Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), Inspections for Level 1 & Level 2 Exceedance Response Actions (ERAs), report reviews and inspection checklists. Different strategies were shared amongst Regional Board staff to develop a more consistent approach to help strengthen compliance statewide. [*Maribel Jernegan, SEA*]

## COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

[Jeong-Hee Lim, WRCE, PhD., P.E.]

### Current Enforcement Action(s)

- The Prosecution Team held settlement agreement meetings for three separate enforcement cases during this reporting period. Case attorneys from State Water Board Office of Enforcement and Regional Board staff are working on two stipulated orders.
- An Expedited Payment Letter (EPL) (a.k.a Conditional Settlement Offer) was issued to State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant (Discharger) on February 15, 2018. On March 12, 2018, the Discharger accepted the Conditional Settlement Offer and signed the "Acceptance of Conditional Resolution and Waiver of Right to Hearing." The proposed resolution was released for public comment, and the comment due date is April 20, 2018.
- NPDES and Land Discharge unit staff issued seven notice of noncompliance letters during this monitoring period for permit requirement violations.

**Enforcement Roundtable (RT)** —Every other month, all Regional Boards' enforcement Coordinators and Office of Enforcement (OE) staff get together to receive updates on legislation, budgets and other topics, and to discuss statewide enforcement matters. On February 6, 2018, Regional Board staff joined a conference call. During the RT, criteria for performance measure on Regional Boards' enforcement actions, handling of unpaid ACLs, and other Regional Board's enforcement actions were discussed.

**Enforcement Priority Meeting**—The Regional Board Lead Prosecutor, the Enforcement Coordinator, and attorneys from OE (collectively, prosecution team), and Regional Board program Unit Seniors get together quarterly to identify the highest priority enforcement cases in this Region. On March 22, 2018, each Unit Seniors discussed enforcement cases in their Unit with the Prosecution Team and received support/direction from the Prosecution Team.

**CalEPA Environmental Justice Task Force Imperial Valley Initiative**—CALEPA Environmental Justice Task Force (Task Force) coordinates the compliance and enforcement work of CalEPA's boards, departments and office in areas of California that are burdened by multiple sources of pollution.

Since its first community meeting in January 2018, the Task Force scheduled monthly meeting to plan additional community meetings and to draft work plans to move forward to address community's complaints and concerns. On March 29, 2018, all participating agencies had a conference call to bring together a work plan on inspections and community support. The draft work plan includes the list of facilities to be inspected in the Imperial Valley, and the list was chosen based on the community member's interest, complaints, and concerns. The draft inspection list for this RB included three NPDES permit facilities, one Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit facility, one Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit facility, and fourteen (14) industrial facilities. The Task Force also discussed potential dates to hold two-day community meeting that includes bus tour of the some facilities. The exact date and agenda of the community meeting has not been determined yet.

## REGULATORY AND LAND DISPOSAL UNIT

(Unit Chief: Doug Wylie, Senior WRC Engineer, P.E.)

**Blythe Energy Project and Genesis Solar Power Plant inspections**—On February 2, 2018, Doug Wylie and Scot Stormo from the Regional Water Board staff and Paul Marshall from the California Energy Commission jointly inspected the two power plants near Blythe, CA.

**Emergency Response Technical Work Group (ERTWG)** —On February 5, 2018, Doug Wylie participated in the kick-off meeting of the ERTWG. The State and Regional Water Boards are tasked with protecting California's surface and groundwater quality and drinking water supplies, including during the initial emergency response following natural and man-made disasters and in associated long-term recovery efforts. To do so, the Water Boards collaborate and coordinate within the agency and externally with partners and stakeholders to provide resources for emergency preparedness, response, and recovery. The ERTWG has been created to facilitate these efforts. A follow-up meeting was held on March 5.

**Land Disposal Program Roundtable**—On February 7, 2018, Scot Stormo attended the statewide Roundtable meeting at the San Diego Water Board office. The agenda included topics on disaster debris disposal and water quality issues, implementation of the Compost General Order, the Administrative Procedure Manual (APM), and a field trip to the Prima Deshecha Landfill located in San Juan Capistrano.

**CalEnergy Geothermal Power Plants**—On February 16, 2018, Doug Wylie and Scot Stormo met in Palm Desert with representatives of CalEnergy Operating Corporation's Environmental Services Unit. In 2014, CalEnergy conducted testing of a portable plate filter press to assist with managing solids in its brine ponds, and subsequently requested modifications of the waste discharge permits to incorporate the plate filter press as a part of normal operations. The unit was found to be helpful in managing brine precipitates, but it did not achieve sufficient reductions in the volume of solids in the geothermal process. Therefore, CalEnergy is currently seeking to make further improvements in the process and requested input from the Regional Water Board on the planned project prior to implementation.

**PG&E Topock Compressor Chromium 6 Cleanup Project**—On February 27-28, 2018, Scot Stormo participated in the Project Consultative Workgroup (CWG) meeting in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. The January CWG meeting was postponed to February, pending the certification of the



DTSC's Project Supplemental EIR. Although there are still uncertainties regarding the timing of the completion of the SEIR due to on-going consultation with the affected Indian Tribes, the project team decided to proceed with the first CWG of 2018.

The charter of the CWG states: *Pursuant to Section 25187 of the California Health and Safety Code, the Department of Toxic Substances Control has been designated as the sole Administering Agency representing the State of California for all Corrective Action activities and related permitting activities at the PG&E Topock facility located in Needles, California. Accordingly, DTSC has established a Consultative Work Group (CWG) consisting of itself, its sister State agency the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), federal agencies (DOI, BLM, BOR, USFWS), as federal land management agencies as well as trustees of federal resources within or around the area of investigation, the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe as an adjacent property owner, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California as an adjacent property owner and as an importer of Colorado River water for treatment and distribution as drinking water to cities and water districts throughout Southern California, Native American Tribes with lands in the vicinity of the Colorado River and representatives of the State of Arizona; all considered critical stakeholders in this project.*

In addition, on March 13, 2018, Scot Stormo participated in the DTSC Topock Clearinghouse Task Force meeting by phone.

**Cannabis Summit**—On March 20-21, 2018, Doug Wylie participated in the 2018 Cannabis Summit for California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Water Board staff. The agenda included introductions of various state agencies and role/geographic scope, program overview, coordination with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Water Board's Cannabis Policy and Water Quality General Order.

**Waste Discharge Requirements Program Roundtable**—On March 21, 2018, Doug Wylie and Scot Stormo participated in the statewide Roundtable meeting teleconference. The agenda included topics on the use of GeoTracker and California Integrated Water Quality Systems (CIWQS) databases for information on the Dischargers self-monitoring reporting and inspections, the development of a Dry Well General Order, and the statuses of the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) Policy and Recycled Water Policy.

**Staff Training**—New unit staff Water Resources Control Engineers Adriana Godinez and Reggie Tan attended mandatory field safety training on February 8 and March 8, 2018, respectively. All unit staff attended the CIWQS Training in Riverside at the Region 8 office on March 26

## SALTON SEA AND SWAMP PROGRAMS

(Jeff Geraci, Senior Environmental Scientist)

**SWAMP SPRING SAMPLING (2018)** – This round of sampling focuses on aquatic toxicity within the Salton Sea watershed, including the sea's tributaries and the constructed wetlands. We will also be continuing our trend monitoring, sampling both water and sediments at targeted sites throughout Imperial and Coachella Valleys, including Palo Verde. An entire suite of analyses will be performed, including pesticides, trace metals, nutrients, and a number of additional analytes.

A new task for this sampling round involves the chemical and toxicity analysis of dredged sediments collected from the constructed wetlands in Imperial Valley, as well as the exposed playa of Salton Sea. Aquatic Habitat construction at Salton Sea entails the rehydration of exposed playa with a blended mixture of sea water and river water. Rehydration water could leach contaminants from the dry sediment particles of the playa. Water overlying the newly hydrated sediment could become contaminated and toxic. Similarly, the bioavailability of contaminants in sediments could be altered during the rehydration process. Two compartments need to be evaluated for toxicity and contaminants: (1) rehydrated sediment, and; (2) water overlying the rehydrated sediment.

A total of (14) sites will be visited and sampled this spring. Tasks completed in February/ March 2018 include:

- Finalized sampling schedule and logistics for spring, and completed balanced itemized budget
- Coordinated with labs, QA, field and data teams; hosted kickoff coordination meeting for all involved parties
- Developed and submitted a detailed work plan
- Logistics coordination with UC Davis aquatic toxicity lab personnel
- Development of toxicity workplan and strategy for analysis of water and sediment

**LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING** – This meeting took place in Coachella, California, on February 7, 2018. At least 50 participants and members of the public were in attendance. Presentations included updates on the project's status, future plans and timelines for future projects, and a lecture on wildlife needs by DFW.

Regional Board staff voiced concern that aquatic toxicity and pesticides were being overlooked, emphasizing the impacts on invertebrates, which make up the base of the food chain.

**SWAMP ROUNDTABLE & FIELD TRIP** – Region 7 hosted its first SWAMP round table meeting on February 8-9, where more than 27 Regional Board staff from the 9 regions attended. Members were driven in vans to the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, and then continued on to the Sonny Bono Wildlife Refuge for a presentation by USFWS staff, with a brief final stop at the geothermal mud volcanoes south of Niland. Staff briefed the group on the Salton Sea restoration, and what the Regional Board is doing to support the effort. Very positive and appreciative feedback was received from the group for Region 7's efforts to host the meeting and field trip.

**TORRES-MARTINEZ WETLANDS TOUR** – Staff accompanied Jose Angel and USEPA staff to the Torres Martinez Wetlands Project on February 13. Provided background and other information regarding the Salton Sea Restoration Effort.

## UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) & SITE CLEANUP PROGRAMS

(Unit Chief, Joan Stormo, Senior Engineering Geologist)

**UST Roundtable Teleconference**—On February 21<sup>st</sup>, staff participated in the all state UST Roundtable. Issues discussed included **a)** UST Cleanup Fund update (Resolution 2009-0042) requirement to reduce quarterly monitoring to semiannual or less. As discussed, quarterly monitoring is reasonable for new cases or newly installed wells for 4-8 quarters. Sufficient reasoning/explanation for quarterly sampling should be provided in directive letters. Eliminate lab analyses that are unnecessary, expensive, and/or overlapping or duplicate. **b)** State Water Board/GeoTracker update: Stalled case check box; SB/USEPA stalled case efforts; Administrative Procedures Manual; Lab QA/QC; Using UST funding for SCP cases; and DTSC lead cases. [*Phan Le, WRCE, Theresa Kimsey, ES*]

### **Former 7-Eleven #23409, 904 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County**

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, reviewed case files and met with State Water Board Expedited Claims Account Program (ECAP) Unit staff, Galvin Kauffman to discuss the Site. On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Regional Water Board staff conducted a teleconference Joint Execution Team (JET) meeting attended by State Board ECAP staff, STANTEC [consultant] and the Responsible Party (RP), to discuss the Site's status in relation to the Low Threat Closure Policy (LTCP) and develop a program to achieve the Site's LTCP goals. As agreed upon at the JET meeting, a directive to conduct additional groundwater analysis at the Site was drafted and submitted to the RP. On February 19<sup>th</sup>, staff revised 'GEO Well Data', which was incorrectly submitted in GeoTracker by the consultant. On

March 5, staff conducted regular GeoTracker review of the Site, checking for recent uploads to the database. The week of March 12<sup>th</sup>, staff received a Review Summary Report (RSR) from State Water Board (Ms. Jennifer Johnson) recommending review of the casefile and additional work pursuant to the February 12<sup>th</sup> JET meeting. On March 22, staff reviewed the RSR and drafted a directive to the RP to conduct a soil gas investigation at the Site. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**USA Gasoline Station #295, 1036 Imperial Avenue, Calexico, Imperial County**—The week of February 5<sup>th</sup>, staff reviewed and drafted a letter accepting the “Workplan Dual Phase Extraction”. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**COPA Inc, 332 West Chanslor Way, Blythe**—On February 19<sup>th</sup>, staff received an email from the consultant (Ryan Schaffer – GESI) requesting approval to continue the remedial action at the Site. Reviewed a workplan to install two off-site soil vapor probes. Drafted and sent a letter approving continued remediation and groundwater monitoring at the Site. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, staff reviewed Site data in GeoTracker to assess for LTCP. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**8th Street Gas & MINIMMEX**—Week of February 26<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup>, staff reviewed Site information and updated the Site Closure Checklist in GeoTracker to finalize closure of the case. The week of March 19<sup>th</sup>, reviewed the “Closed Case Summary Report Package”. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**Former EZ SERVE # 100828, 940 Imperial Avenue, Calexico**—On March 5<sup>th</sup> staff reviewed Site data in GeoTracker for updates. On March 29<sup>th</sup> staff reviewed “Work Plan for Additional Soil Vapor Sampling and Groundwater Sample Analysis”. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**Reviewed Site Data in GeoTracker for Updates, Compliance, Assessment for LTCP—**

March 12<sup>th</sup> - SOCO 60 - Compliance

March 12<sup>th</sup> - SOCO 63 - Compliance

March 19<sup>th</sup> - Circle K #1407, 945 East Hobson Way, Blythe – Assess for LTCP

March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Former USA Gas Station #292, 1497 West Adams Street, El Centro - Assess for LTCP

March 29<sup>th</sup> – Assessed all Sites in relation to LTCP goals. *[Kola Olatunbosun, WRCE]*

**Recalcitrant UST Cases**—On March 7<sup>th</sup>, staff participated in a teleconference meeting with David Boyer, the State Water Board Enforcement attorney, to discuss recalcitrant UST cases and receive advice to proceed with enforcement for those cases. On March 22, staff participated in an in house meeting with State Water Board staff David Boyer, to follow up the previous discussion about the recalcitrant UST cases and how to proceed (13267 order, CAO etc...). Discussion included what order or waste discharge requirement should be established when the injection of chemical to the groundwater is proposed as the remedial technology at the UST or Site Cleanup properties. *[Phan Le, WRCE. Theresa Kimsey, ES]*

**Dollar General Store #13336, 308 South Imperial Avenue, Imperial**—On March 29<sup>th</sup>, Regional Water Board staff finalized Path to Closure activities, including closure documents for the Site. *[Theresa Kimsey, ES]*

**Groundwater**—On February 9<sup>th</sup>, a public Work Shop was held to present the findings of a nitrate assessment conducted by staff in the west Coachella Valley [Indio Subbasin]. The study area included Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Desert, and Indian Wells. The assessment included evaluation of geologic factors related to contaminant risk, review of historical land uses, evaluation of septic and centralized sewer system availability, identification of sewer

system overflows, review of nitrate concentrations in groundwater through time, and evaluation of nitrate sources based on the presence of chemicals indicative of either wastewater or agricultural activities. Details of the assessment were provided in a status report presented to the Regional Water Board prior to the Work Shop. [Cathy Sanford, EG]

**Department of Defense (DOD)**—Month of February 2018 activities:

**NAF El Centro Installation**—Staff reviewed: Draft Site Assessment Report for ten (10) Underground Storage Tank Sites, Draft Remedial Investigation Report, MRP Site 1-Former Skeet and Trap Range and submitted written comments, Draft Spring 2017 Semi-Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report IR Sites 1, 2, and 7 and submitted written comments. In addition, a site visit to the installation was conducted on February 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the status of open USTs and tour the base for open IR and MRP sites. – [Jose Cortez, WRCE, P.E.]

**29 Palms MCAGCC Installation**—Staff reviewed: Final Time-Critical Removal Action, IR 65 and submitted written comments, Response to Comments on 29 Palms MCAGCC and submitted concurrence letter, Draft Corrective Action Plan for UST 10, Final Sampling and Analysis Plan for UST Site 10 and submitted letter of concurrence.

**Naval Auxiliary Air Station Holtville**—Teleconference with consultant to discuss UST Request for Closure submittals.

Month of March 2018 activities:

**NAF El Centro Installation**—Staff reviewed: Final Feasibility Study Installation Restoration Site 18, Final Site Assessment Report for ten (10) Underground Storage Tank Sites with closure recommendation for seven (7) sites. Staff had a teleconference with NAF El Centro to discuss the 2016-2018 JEPs, to verify completed and outstanding JEP activities (2016-2018 JEP cycle ends June 30, 2018). Another teleconference was made with NAF El Centro to discuss RWB comments on Draft Remedial Investigation Report, MRP Site 1. Issues still outstanding.

**29 Palms MCAGCC Installation**—Staff reviewed: 29 Palms MCAGCC, Final Addendum 01 Final Sampling and Analysis Plan / Feasibility Study Data Gaps IR Site 14, Case files for 29 Palms MCAGCC, IR Sites 34 and 36. Began preparation of case Closure Documents for UST Site 8. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> staff had a teleconference with 29 Palms MCAGCC to discuss the 2016-2018 JEPs, to verify completed and outstanding JEP activities (2016-2018 JEP cycle ends June 30, 2018).

**Naval Auxiliary Air Station Holtville**—Preview and upload nine (9) Closure Summary documents.

**Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities**—Provided Facility Site Inspection training for Non15 staff for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Facilities on March 28.

**Office of Emergency Services (OES) Notifications (Spills)**—February 5<sup>th</sup> – Responded to spill of 50 gallons of diesel fuel caused by overturned big rig in Brawley. Spill cleaned up by CalTrans. [Jose Cortez, WRCE, P.E.]

February 6<sup>th</sup> – Responded to spill of 50 gallons of mineral oil at Southern California Edison facility in Rancho Mirage. Cleanup of the impacted soil was been completed by RP.

February 12<sup>th</sup> – Responded to spill of 10,000 gallons of sewage in El Centro caused by break in force main. Approximately 7,000 gallons entered a dirt drain ditch that leads to the Salton Sea were unrecoverable. RP used vacuum truck cleaned up remainder puddled on soil. Regulated by Collection Systems General Order. Forwarded spill report to Land Disposal Unit.

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Spill of 1,200 gallons of sewage in Needles. No waterways affected. RP conducted cleanup of release.

March 1<sup>st</sup> – Responded to spill of 4,200 gallons of Fuel - F24 Type at NAF El Centro. Fuel flowed onto concrete secondary containment. Secondary containment was cracked and released fuel into soil, RP performing clean up.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Responded to OES Notification of Radioactive Material near well site in Twin Peaks. Material stored in 5-gallon paint buckets. Location is in Region 6. Referred notification to Lohontan Regional Water Board in Victorville.

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Responded to OES Notification of railcar derailment in Calipatria. No injuries or damaged caused. Response required.

**Training** – Between March 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Regional Board staff attended Princeton Groundwater Pollution and Hydrology course in San Francisco. [*Jose Cortez, WRCE, P.E., Cathy Sanford, EG*]

## ADMINISTRATIVE/SUPPORT SERVICES

(Unit Chief, Hilda Vasquez, Staff Services Mgr.)

### Human Resources

**New Hires**—Reginald Tan, Water Resources Control Engineer, joined the Regional Water Board on March 5, 2018. He works in the Land Disposal Unit under Doug Wylie, Senior WRCE.

**Office Visitors and Public Records Act Request**—During the months of February and March 2018, the Regional Water Board had 14 visitors and, received and responded to 12 PRAs. [*Terry Barnes, OT*]

**Board Room Upgrade Update**—The Regional Water Board continues to work with DAS Business Services staff to upgrade the Board Room. The project is still pending at this time. [*Mary Castaneda, AGPA*]